REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 3 is amended for the Examiner's consideration. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" shows all the claims in the application, with an indication of the current status of each .

The Examiner requires restriction between Group I, claims 1-2, drawn to a method and system for making prioritized recommendation of items to a user based on preferences, and Group II, claims 3-8, drawn to a method and system for collecting statistical data and pre-computing model parameters from the statistical data. Applicants hereby respectfully traverse the restriction requirement and elect Group II, claims 3-8.

Independent claims 1 and 3 each have three elements, as follows:

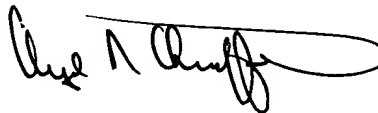|	Claim 1	Claim 3
Preamble	A method for making prioritized recommendations to a customer in the process of filling a market basket for purchase on an Internet commerce site, the method comprising the steps of:	
Element 1	generating a matrix of training data;	collecting statistics <u>on preferences for associative and renewal buying</u> from training data;
Element 2	considering preferences based on associative and renewal buying history from the training data; and	precomputing model parameters from the collected statistics; and
Element 3	making a prioritized recommendation of items so as to maximize the likelihood that the customer will add to the market basket those items with higher priorities.	recommending ordering for a given partial market basket based on the precomputed model parameters.

As will be seen from the above table, the preambles are identical. The first claim element refers to the training data used for establishing preference weights. The second claim element uses the training data to establish the two preference weights for items not in the basket. The amendment to claim 3 makes clear that this second element applies to the two preference weights. And the third element provides for priority ordering of items based on the established weights.

Contrary to the Examiner's argument, it does not appear that claims 1 and 3 are in the relation of combination/subcombination, even without the amendment. Without the amendment, element 2 is broader in claim 3, but it is appropriate for the applicant to lay claim to the invention in a plurality of formulations and combinations. In view of the amendment, it should be clear that the precomputed model parameters concern the two preferences (as further detailed in claim 5). Therefore, there remain no grounds for sustaining the restriction requirement.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be reconsidered, that withdrawn claims 1-2 be restored, and that examination proceed on claims 1-8.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account 50-0510 (IBM-Yorktown).

Respectfully submitted,

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